General Assembly

Distr.: General
18 January 2001

Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 39

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/55/L.32/Rev.1 and Add.1)*]

55/43. Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the indissoluble links between the principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[1] and the foundations of any democratic society,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted by heads of State and Government on 8 September 2000,[2] in particular paragraphs 6 and 24,

Recalling also the Manila Declaration[3] adopted by the First International Conference of New or Restored Democracies[4] in June 1988,

Considering the major changes taking place on the international scene and the aspirations of all peoples for an international order based on the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, including the promotion and encouragement of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and other important principles, such as respect for the equal rights and self-determination of peoples, peace, democracy, justice, equality, the rule of law, pluralism, development, better standards of living and solidarity,

Recalling its resolution 49/30 of 7 December 1994 in which it recognized the importance of the Managua Declaration[5] and Plan of Action[6] adopted by the Second International Conference of New or Restored Democracies in July 1994, as well as its resolutions 50/133 of 20 December 1995, 51/31 of 6 December 1996, 52/18 of 21 November 1997, 53/31 of 23 November 1998 and 54/36 of 29 November 1999,

Recalling also the document entitled "Progress Review and Recommendations", adopted by the Third International Conference of New or Restored Democracies on Democracy and Development, held in Bucharest from 2 to

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).
[2] See resolution 55/2.
[3] A/43/538, annex.
[4] Then called the International Conference of Newly Restored Democracies.
[5] A/49/713, annex I.
[6] Ibid., annex II.

4 September 1997,[7] in which guidelines, principles and recommendations were addressed to Governments, civil society, the private sector, donor countries and the international community,

Taking note with satisfaction of the seminars, workshops and conferences on democratization and good governance organized in 2000, as well as those held under the auspices of the International Conference of New or Restored Democracies,

Taking note of the views of Member States expressed in the debate on this question at its forty-ninth, fiftieth, fifty-first, fifty-second, fifty-third, fifty-fourth and fifty-fifth sessions,

Bearing in mind that the activities of the United Nations carried out in support of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate democracy are undertaken in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and only at the specific request of the Member States concerned,

Bearing in mind also that democracy, development and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing and that democracy is based on the freely expressed will of the people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and on their full participation in all aspects of their lives,

Noting that a considerable number of societies have recently undertaken significant efforts to achieve their social, political and economic goals through democratization and the reform of their economies, pursuits that are deserving of the support and recognition of the international community,

Noting with satisfaction that the Fourth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies will be held in Cotonou, Benin, from 4 to 6 December 2000,

Stressing the importance of support by Member States, the United Nations system, the specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations for the holding of the Fourth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[8]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,[8] and invites Member States to consider the proposals contained therein;

2. *Commends* the Secretary-General, and through him the United Nations system, for the activities undertaken at the request of Governments to support the efforts to consolidate democracy and for his contribution to the preparatory process and success of the Fourth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies;

3. *Welcomes* the work carried out by the follow-up mechanism to the Third International Conference of New or Restored Democracies on Democracy and Development;

4. *Invites* the Secretary-General, Member States, the relevant specialized agencies, programmes, funds and other bodies of the United Nations system, as well as other intergovernmental organizations, to collaborate in the holding of the Fourth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies;

[7] A/52/334, appendix.
[8] A/55/489.

5. *Recognizes* that the Organization has an important role to play in providing timely, appropriate and coherent support to the efforts of Governments to achieve democratization within the context of their development efforts;

6. *Stresses* that activities undertaken by the Organization must be in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;

7. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to improve the capacity of the Organization to respond effectively to the requests of Member States through coherent, adequate support of their efforts to achieve the goals of good governance and democratization;

8. *Encourages* Member States to promote democratization and to make additional efforts to identify possible steps to support the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session the item entitled "Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies".

71st plenary meeting
27 November 2000